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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1X

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1A

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

TRAINING AND MANEUVERS - CHEMICAL INFORMATION

25X1A [redacted] the following information to that
which was published [redacted] on training and maneuvers. 25X1A

1. Source's knowledgeability on chemical training was very limited. 25X1A

25X1A [redacted] Chemical training was conducted on the average of once every two weeks. The instructor was the regimental chemical officer, whose name was unknown [redacted]. Training included gas mask drill, use of smoke pots, drill in donning protective shoes and combination protective suits, chemical agents and the duplex cape.

2. He gave the following information about chemical equipment.

a. Gas Mask 25X1A

b. Protective Overboot

25X1A [redacted] It was made of a fabric material that was coated with some type of yellow, greasy substance. The battalion had six pairs of these overboots for training purposes.

c. Flame Throwers

Source never saw or heard of a flame-throwing tank or of the portable flame thrower.

d. Individual Decontamination Kit

25X1A [redacted] neither handled it nor knew what it contained. He identified it as being the same as the individual anti-chemical package IFP-6, mentioned in "Soviet Chemical Warfare Weapons and Equipment," dated 1 Jun 50.

e. WP Shells

Source never saw or heard of white phosphorous shells.

3. During chemical agent lectures, he was taught only the common gases. He could not recall details of the lectures or the names of the gases. 25X1A [redacted] gases resembling phosgene, mustard, lewisite and chloropicrin. He knew nothing about nerve gases, blood gases or phosgene oxime.

25X1A 4. Instructors said that the purpose of smoke munitions was to produce smoke screens to camouflage troops and equipment during offensive or defensive operations. [redacted] three types of smoke pots, descriptions of which follow below.

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1A

CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

a. MDsh Smoke Pot

Source said it resembled the irritant smoke candle DM-11 (see "Soviet Chemical Warfare Weapons and Equipment," dated 1 Jun 50). The smoke pot was 16 to 17 cm high and about 20 cm. in diameter. Made of a light sheet metal that was painted green, it weighed about 3½ to 4½ kg. Its top had 10 emission holes and an igniter well which was located in the center.

Source said a match-head type of igniter was used to start the smoke pot burning. The igniter was six to eight centimeters long and about as thick as a pencil. It was put into the well and was ignited when a scratcher was drawn across its tip. The igniter and scratcher came in separate containers.

Burning time of the smoke pot was approximately 10 minutes. The smoke cloud produced was either black or white and nontoxic. Because it looked like a fierce fire, the black smoke was particularly effective in camouflaging a disabled tank while the crew made repairs or in similar situations. The large flame given off could be seen for some distance. White smoke was normally used to camouflage troops. It did not give off a flame of any size. Rain and cold weather did not affect the operation of the smoke pot, but high winds did disperse the smoke rapidly.

number of these smoke pots and watched seven others fired. He never saw a misfire or one that failed to burn completely. He did not know the contents of the pot and did not remember any marking on it to distinguish the type of smoke to be produced. Source also added that an ignited pot would float on water, coming up to the surface burning and smoking after being thrown in.

According to source, all smoke pots were stored in the regimental chemical warehouse.

b. EDsh Smoke Pot

It was about 60 cm. high and 50 cm. in diameter. Made of light sheet metal that was painted green, it weighed about 44 kg. This pot was similar to smoke barrel DB-11 in the "Soviet Chemical Warfare Weapons and Equipment" manual except for the absence of the body rings.

Source never saw one of these smoke pots in use. He was told it was used to camouflage tanks and all kinds of vehicles as well as large bodies of troops. Color of smoke produced or length of burning time were unknown to him. The smoke supposedly was not affected by weather conditions.

Source said that these large pots were mounted on the rear armor plates of T-34 tanks and SP Guns. Only one smoke container could be mounted on a tank. A bracket and two straps held smoke pot in place. The brackets were a standard modification. The tank driver could either fire a smoke pot electrically or release it from the tank at any time by using a special release lever located in his compartment. The EDsh was never stored on a tank.

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1A

CONFIDENTIAL

-4-

instead, it was kept in the regimental chemical warehouse. Source also heard that it could be used separately in the field and that it could be fired electrically or manually. He did not know whether it could float in water.

c. RDG Grenade

See Encl. A for a sketch of the RDG grenade (smoke hand grenade). It was about 23 to 25 cm. high and had a diameter of about seven to eight centimeters. The body of the grenade was made of a yellow cardboard-like material. The RDG had a lid that fitted inside of the body.

Source said that the grenade was ignited by a pull-type igniter which had to be jerked hard for operation or else the grenade failed to function. He could give no further details about this igniter.

The grenade came in two types, toxic and non-toxic. These were distinguished by the color of the lid. The lid was yellow for non-toxic smoke, but source did not know the lid color of toxic smoke grenades. He was told that the toxic type was used to produce casualties. Source also heard that an unknown number of toxic smoke grenades was stored in the regimental chemical warehouse and that these grenades were never used in training.

He knew of no other markings on the grenade. He did not know its chemical contents.

Burning time of the smoke hand grenade was about four minutes. It could produce either a black or white smoke cloud. Though not knowing the specific uses for the black smoke type, source said the white smoke grenades were used to camouflage one or two soldiers while they were digging in. He saw about five of these grenades fired and observed no misfires. No flame came from them while they were burning.

1 Encl:

A. RDG Smoke Hand Grenade

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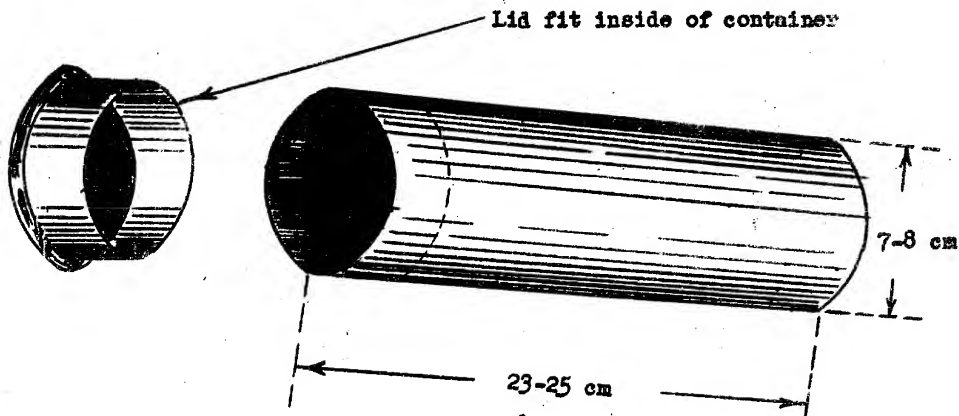
CONFIDENTIAL

-5-

Enclosure A

RDC Smoke Hand Grenade

It resembles the smoke candle shown in the "Soviet Chemical Warfare Weapons and Equipment" manual, published by the Intelligence Branch, Chemical Corps, dtd 1 Jun 50.



Date of Info:
Basis of Info: Personal observation

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